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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: June 9, 1959.

SUBJECT: Non-Military Measures in the Event of Soviet Obstruction to Allied Access to Berlin. (Working Group -- First Meeting)

PARTICIPANTS: M. Jean Claude Winckler, Counselor, French Embassy
Mr. D. A. Logan, First Secretary, British Embassy
Mr. John A. Armitage, SOV

COPIES TO:
EUR - Mr. Kohler
S/P - Mr. Morgan
G - Mr. Porter
GER - Mr. Vigderman

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Draft Statement

Messrs. Vigderman and McFarland, GER, joined the group at the outset to hand Messrs. Logan and Winckler copies of the amended draft statement to be issued in the event the Soviets transfer the functions of control posts along Allied access routes to GDR personnel. Mr. Vigderman explained that the changes in the draft were designed to make it more specific. Mr. Logan circulated a British draft of a similar statement in briefer form which was devised for distribution to the press.

Breaking Diplomatic Relations.

All members of the group agreed that breaking diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union would be inadvisable. Mr. Armitage suggested that the withdrawal of NATO Ambassadors from Moscow for consultation might have some of the advantages and fewer of the disadvantages of breaking relations. Mr. Winckler stressed that such a move would impress the Soviet public with the seriousness of the situation. Mr. Armitage stated that under certain circumstances it might also help to induce uncommitted countries to support an acceptable resolution in the UN or possibly to make representations against any unilateral action to change the existing situation in Germany.

Diplomatic Representations

Mr. Logan said the British had disseminated information concerning the Geneva meeting to their Chiefs of Mission and assumed that their Ambassadors would use appropriate portions of this information in conversations with the officials of other governments. Mr. Winckler stated that the French Embassy

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had recommended that the French Foreign Office instruct non-NATO missions to coordinate with the British and U.S. concerning any approaches to local governments. Mr. Armitage said that we had a report that the Soviets had given Nasser an account of the Geneva meeting to date and suggested that we might have to consider further approaches to neutral governments.

Economic Counter-Measures

As revealed by Mr. Logan the British view appears to be roughly as follows:

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Mr. Winckler considered that economic counter-measures would be appropriate and desirable but only when the crisis reached an advanced stage.

It was agreed that the circumstances and timing of possible non-military measures should be spelled out in greater detail and Mr. Armitage undertook to draft a paper on the subject and to call the next meeting of the group.

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